

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Cherry Hill Plant Research Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2000 Cherry Hill Road

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

20904

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☒ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

State of Maryland/University of MD

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Office of University Planning, College Park, MD

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #:

Folio #:

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery Co. Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Rockville, Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

M:34-11

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The principal structure of the complex is a gambrel-roofed barn of frame construction, sheathed in German siding and painted white. It is a full two stories in height, and though designed as a barn, it also was originally and presently meant to incorporate office and specialized storage space. It never functioned simply as an ordinary barn, but rather as the centerpiece of an agricultural experiment program.

This principal barn contains seven bays across the length of its west longitudinal facade. Two sliding wooden doors on a track form the central entrance flanked on either side by trios of irregularly placed windows. Windows are 6/6, double hung with simple timber surrounds and slightly projecting, flat wooden sills. Each corner of the building features cornerboards, and at eaves level is a modest boxed cornice. Seven shed-roofed dormers light the second story; they feature 6/6, double hung sash, simple timber surrounds and German siding. The gambrel roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and possesses two vents and a short brick chimney at the south end. The building rests on a cement foundation.

The north end of this large barn contain central, second story entrances with double doors. In the gable is an oculus with ventilator panels and trimmed with a simple wooden molding featuring four keystones.

On the east facade facing the parking area, the barn building is articulated by a doorway at the southeast corner topped by a shed-roofed porch on two supports. Four windows are interspersed irregularly along the length of the facade with a large double doorway in a position corresponding to the double doorway on the west facade.

Nine shed-roofed dormer windows punctuate the roof with three above the single doorway joined together.

The south gable end is defined by two windows at first and second story levels, and, an oculus ventilator placed in the gable.

On the interior, accessible through the central entrance bay on the first story is a wall of double-door, fitted cabinets with rows of shelves and compartments for specialized storage purposes. The second floor is characterized by smaller, utilitarian chambers with vertical plain boards with rough, milled finish used as paneling.

A second WPA-constructed barn exists to the southeast of the first. It is also gambrel-roofed, sheathed in German siding and resting on a cement foundation. Five, shed-roofed dormers, exactly like those on the larger barn, protrude from the longitudinal facade roof which is also sheathed in asphalt shingles. This north longitudinal side possesses a shed-roofed addition but otherwise no apertures

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

CONTINUATION SHEET, ITEM # 7 DESCRIPTION
Cherry Hill Plant Research Farm

exist here. On the west gable end, a shed-roofed porch resting on four posts shelters an open-air market for farm-produced goods. An arched, $1\frac{1}{2}$ story central bay with double doorway is located above this porch roof, flanked by two 6/6, double hung windows.

On the interior are several storage rooms, cooling chambers, with heavy refrigerator doors and vertical board paneling over special insulation designed to store fruit and vegetables.

On the south facade are located a central doorway topped by shed-roofed porch on two supports with two windows to the west and three to the east on the first story. An exterior brick chimney is placed directly to the west of the doorway. The roof is punctuated by five dormers.

A German-sided cottage to the east of the second barn, originally designed as a small dormitory for students assisting at the experimental facility, was also built by the WPA. It is L-shaped in plan with a jerkin-head roofed section intersecting a gable-roofed section.

The remaining WPA structures are two adjacent, gable-roofed storage buildings located on the access road. Sheathed in German siding and serving various functions, they remain useful auxiliary buildings.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1939-45

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Work Projects Administration

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The WPA-constructed buildings form the core of the Cherry Hill Agricultural Experiment Station. Of these structures, some were built with wood from timber on this farm. The surrounding buildings date from the early 1950's and are University-constructed.

As a facility of the University of Maryland, Cherry Hill has been important as the scene of numerous years of development and study of hybrid corn. This experimental work was conducted, for the most part, in the large barn building where a number of other crop studies were headquartered in conjunction with the Maryland Crop Improvement Association. Another major agricultural experiment conducted at Cherry Hill concerned furthering the sweet potato's longevity by developing a curing process.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Oral interviews with William J. Varano, Agronomy Dept.
and Herman Todd, November 1979.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ellen Coxe, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust, Shaw House

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, MD

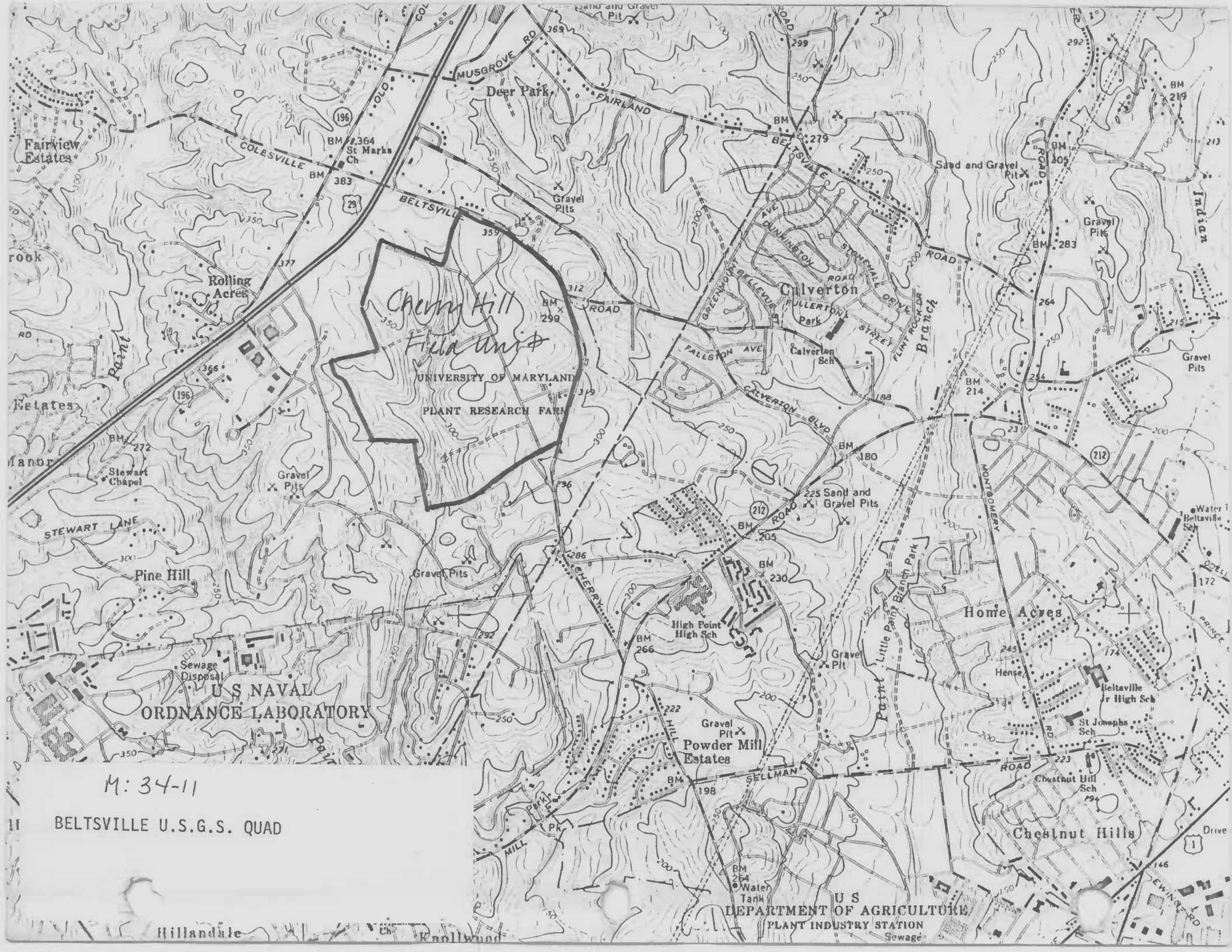
STATE

21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



Monday, May 12, 1980

The Washington Post METRO

Obituaries/Classified/Comics

Urban Development Swallows Md. Research Farm

By Chip Brown,
Washington Post Staff Writer

Motorcyclists would joyride in the wheat plots and horseback riders giddyap through the soybeans. Hungry hikers sneaked into the peach orchard and snacked on the research. A few times neighbors phoned the EPA when the wind shifted over newly matured fields. Even the pigeons and crows were plagues, descending in droves on the only good place to eat for miles around.

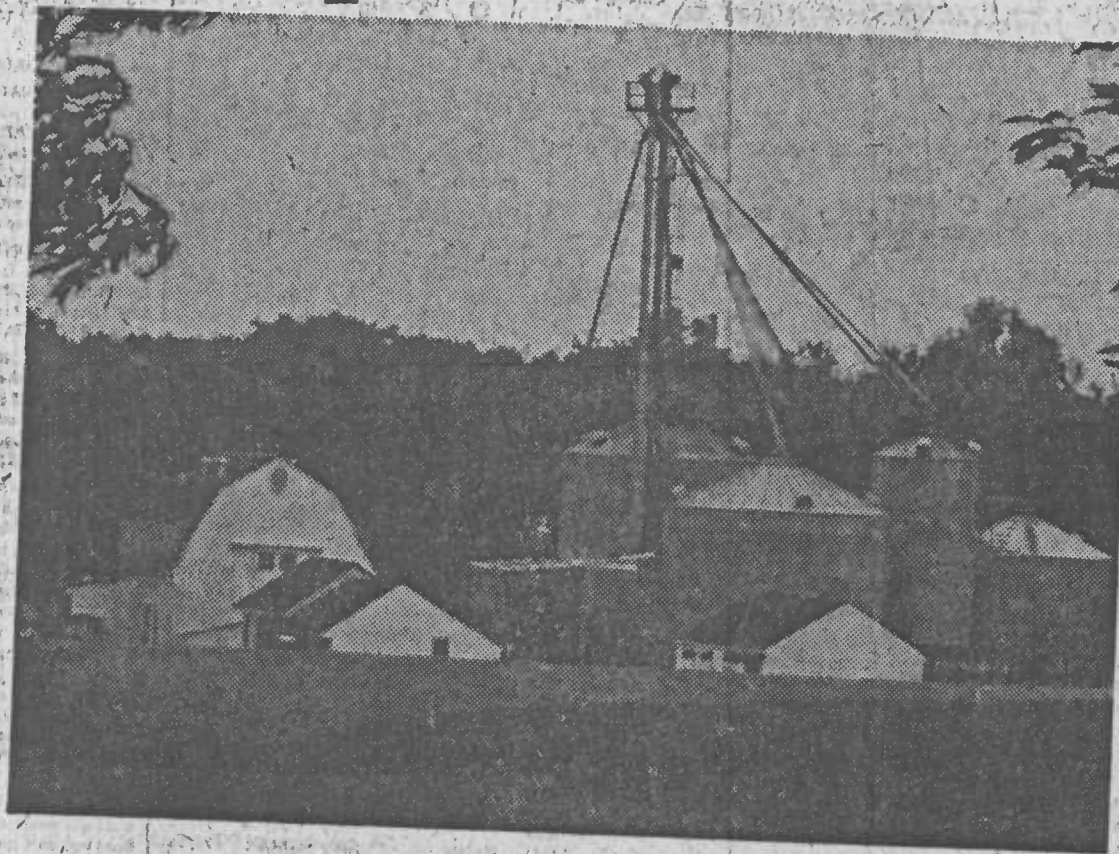
For the researchers and graduate students at the University of Maryland's Plant Research Farm in eastern Montgomery County, the specters of blight and drought pale before the perils of farming on the urban fringe.

For the researchers and graduate students at the University of Maryland's Plant Research Farm in eastern Montgomery County, the specters of blight and drought pale before the perils of farming on the urban fringe.

So after more than 40 years of tinkering with tilling methods and gene pools on a 319-acre tract that has been all but engulfed by subdivisions, industrial parks and major highways, the research farmers are packing up their grain loaders and seed cleaners and retreating to less popular ground.

In place of the hilly pastures that make up the largest open tract of farmland left within Montgomery's expanding urban perimeter, will be an extensive office park, new roads and more than 69 acres of town houses and garden apartments built by a developer who is purchasing the land for \$8.5 million.

The irony for many of the neighbors in nearby subdivisions who did not particularly mind the smell of fertilizer in the spring and cherished the pageant of corn and oak trees burgeoning on a distant ridge is that wittingly or unwittingly, their enthusiasm for the farmland played a major part in the farm's demise.



Trees frame University of Maryland Plant Research Farm buildings at left, while Mary Hannon, agricultural technician, checks plots, right. The 319-acre tract has been sold for \$8.5 million.

"It's so sad," said one woman who bought her home for the view from her living-room picture window: "a panorama of knee-high wheat, rising and rolling to oak groves and the gambrel-roofed white barns of the farm. That field was why I bought here. To me it's serenity."

Nancy Middleton, 17, who lives across the street from the farm, remembers seeing a red fox for the first time, skulking through the corn stalks, and winter days when she went

sledding with other children in the neighborhood.

"The fields give you a feeling of space," she said, "A lot of us have gotten used to it. It's always been there."

Another neighbor whose house fronts the farm is bitter. "Very, very seldom is change for the better," she said. "You better look at the (hillside) now because it will never look the same."

The farm is the last vestige of the way the landscape off Rte. 29 and

Randolph Road used to look before the Capital Beltway and Montgomery Industrial Park were built to the south, I-95 sliced through on the east, or the country to the north was colonized with the Calverton development.

The university first decided to put the land up for sale in 1968. Besides the problem of keeping research peaches out of the mouths of foragers, the farm's sandy soils were not typical of farm land found generally in Maryland. And the agricultural program

manager's felt such ideally located acreage would fetch a lot of money that could be plowed back into the 10 other research farms the university runs around the state.

But the sale was delayed while the county government reviewed the land for use as a campus for Montgomery Community College, and it ran afoul of the county's sewer moratorium.

Finally two weeks ago a contract was approved with Chevy Chase developer Shelton Zuckerman, who will pay at

least \$9 million for the tract. Some experiments may run through 1985, but next spring will be the farm's last complete planting, according to farm manager Bill Varano.

"I'm a little depressed but only because it rained for a week and I've got a lot of work to do," said Varano, who has managed the farm for the past 10 years. "It's people. Thirty years ago Rte. 29 was just a rambling cowpath."

Urban Development Swallows Md. Research Farm

FARM, From D1

It's incredible how much it's changed. If one car runs through a breeding block, if someone takes only five or six peaches, it puts a question on the research data. The residents around here would like a park but farms aren't recreation areas. People don't belong."

Although Montgomery County has managed to retard the rate at which its 120,000 acres of farm land is developed, the demise of the research farm illustrates the headaches that many of the county's 650 commercial farmers

have as they try to move farm machinery on roads clogged with impatient commuters or protect their fields from avid recreation seekers.

"Everyone who farms on the urban fringe has problems, but in Montgomery County the nuisance problem is tremendous," said Robert Rayber of the county's Agricultural Extension Service. "It's been promoted for so many years as the bedroom of Washington. It attracts people. You spray your fields and everybody thinks they see something happening to their rosebushes."

Since the farm was put up for sale,

the problems on the urban fringe have only grown worse, according to Lamar Harris, director of all the agricultural experimental farms in the state.

"We didn't used to see the road trail bikes," Harris said. "We're doing work where we're trying to control variables. If someone runs a motorbike on a turf grass plot, you don't know how to take that into account."

The university runs a similar farm in Upper Marlboro in Prince George's

County, but there "they got a fence up in time," Harris said.

Even a fence wouldn't cure all the problems at the Montgomery farm.

"I suppose you could put up a big fence," sighed Varano. "But the birds are even worse. They're country birds in a city atmosphere, and they don't have much to pick on so they all hit us. We have to put an extra-wide border around the edge of the crops. They pick the edges first. You could call it cultural control."

Man's Body Found Floating in River

The body of an unidentified white man, approximately 35 to 40 years old, was found floating early yesterday in the Little River, about 200 yards south of Roosevelt Island, D.C. homicide detectives said.

Police said the man was about 5 feet, 7 inches tall, weighed about 135 pounds and wore tan or brown earth

shoes, blue jeans and a red, green and black checkered shirt. An autopsy will be performed today to determine the exact cause of death. The man had been dead from three to five days, police said.

According to police, the man was found shortly after 9 a.m. by a man fishing near Roosevelt Island.

Goozh

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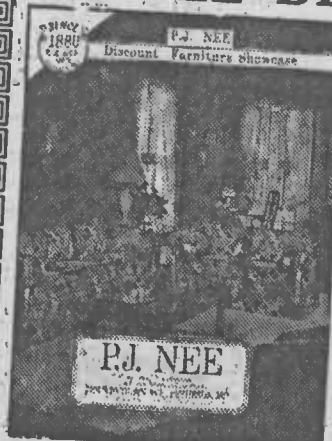
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M- 34-11

Cherry Hill Agricultural Research Facility
Barn, c. 1940. (by CCC)

Exterior.

E. Coxe

11/79



M- 34-11
Cherry Hill Agricultural Research Facility
Barn, c. 1940 by CCC.

Interior: cabinets & fittings

E. Coxe 11/79



M- 34-11

Cherry Hill Agricultural Research Facility
Barn, c. 1940 by CCC.

(w/ cooler facilities for vegetable
storage)

E. Coxe 11/79



M- 34-11
Cherry Hill Agricultural Facility
Cottage, C. 1940 by CCC.

E. Cox

11/79



M- 34-11

Cherry Hill Agricultural Facility
Auxiliary storage buildings, c. 1940 by CCC.

E. Coxe 11/79